

Application No. 10/721,778

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle seat, comprising:

a seat cushion;

a seat back forwardly and rearwardly rotatably supported on a vehicle floor bracket ~~via an axle having about~~ a rotational axis;

a supporting mechanism movably supporting the seat cushion on the vehicle floor bracket; and

a connecting mechanism interconnecting the seat cushion and seat back, the connecting mechanism comprising a first linking member fixedly connected to the seat cushion and a second linking member rotatably connected to the seat back via a first pivot pin that is offset from the rotational axis of the seat back; and

wherein the first and second linking members are restrictively rotatably interconnected via a second pivot pin such that when the seat back is rotated forwardly from a normal position, the first and second linking members are inhibited from rotation relative to each other, so that the seat cushion can be repositioned forwardly and downwardly and that when the seat back is

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rotated rearwardly from the normal position, the first and second linking members are rotated relative to each other so that the seat cushion can be maintained in a substantially stationary position; and the second pivot pin is arranged and constructed so as to be aligned with a rotational axis of the seat back when the seat back is reclined rearwardly from the normal position so that the seat back is independently rotated without moving the seat cushion after the second pivot pin aligns with the rotational axis.

Claims 2-3. (Previously Cancelled).

4. (Previously Presented) A vehicle seat as defined in claim 1, wherein the connecting mechanism comprises:

a projection included on the first linking member; and

a stopper included on the second linking member; and

a tension spring resiliently connecting the projection and the stopper; and

wherein the tension spring provides a biasing force for restricting the rotation of the first and second linking members relative to each other when the seat back is positioned in the range from the normal condition to a retracted position.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) A vehicle seat as defined in claim 1 further comprising:
a support member; and

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wherein the supporting mechanism comprises;

a linking member that interconnects between the seat cushion and the vehicle floor bracket; and

wherein the linking member being arranged and constructed such that the seat cushion is moved forwardly and rearwardly while being vertically shifted during the rotation of the seat back in the range from the normal position to a retracted position; and

wherein the seat cushion is further supported via the support member.

Claims 7-13 (Previously Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) A vehicle seat, comprising:

a seat cushion; and

a seat back that is rotatably supported on a vehicle floor bracket via a rotational axis, so that reclining angles relative to the bracket can be adjustably changed; and

a front linking mechanism movably interconnecting the seat cushion and the bracket such that the seat cushion can be pivoted between a forward lower retracted position and a rearward upper use position; and

a rear linking mechanism comprising a first linking member fixedly connected to the seat cushion and a second linking member rotatably connected to the seat back via a pivot pin that is offset from the rotational axis of the seat back, the first and second linking members being interconnected via a connecting member; and

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wherein the first and second linking members are arranged and constructed such that when the seat back is rotated forwardly, the seat cushion is moved toward the retracted position; and

wherein the first and second linking members are arranged and constructed such that when the seat back is rotated rearwardly, the seat cushion is moved toward the use position; and

wherein the first and second linking members are arranged and constructed such that when the seat back is rotated forwardly, the first and second linking members are inhibited from rotation relative to each other; and

wherein the first and second linking members are arranged and constructed such that when the seat back is rotated rearwardly and the connecting member aligns with the rotational axis, the first and second linking members are rotated relative to each other.

15. (Original) A vehicle seat as defined in claim 14 further comprising:

a detent member that is arranged and constructed such that when the seat back is rotated rearwardly and the connecting member aligns with the rotational axis, the seat cushion is inhibited from moving rearwardly.